United Nations A/ES-10/479 S/2010/122

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 5 March 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up to my letter of two days ago and recent letters regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, I regret to inform you that tensions have continued to rise, resulting in greater unrest and instability on the ground. This deterioration is clearly linked to the continuous aggravation and inflammation of the situation by Israel, the occupying Power, and its illegal practices, provocations and incitement against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Territory. If left unaddressed, this fragile situation will surely lead to further destabilization, with vastly negative repercussions in the area as well as in the region.

Today, in a clear indication of rising frustrations and tensions, the holy Al-aram Al-Sharif compound in Occupied East Jerusalem regrettably once again witnessed turmoil. Following the Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque, Israeli occupying forces stormed the compound, firing tear gas, rubber-coated bullets and stun grenades at Palestinian men, women and youth that had been worshipping there. Further provoked by the intense presence of the Israeli occupying forces in this sacred area, clashes erupted between the occupying forces and the Palestinian worshippers at the compound and in other places in the Old City. In this regard, it is imperative to bear in mind the heightened religious sensitivities and anger prevailing due to repeated Israeli illegal attempts to alter the character, composition and status of the Palestinian Territory, particularly in East Jerusalem, and to control holy sites, as indicated by the recent Israeli declarations regarding holy sites in Al-Khalil (Hebron) and Bethlehem.

Dozens of Palestinians were injured by the occupying forces today in East Jerusalem, with reports that at least 60 people may have suffered injuries, including one Palestinian woman who was shot in the head with a rubber bullet and is currently hospitalized in serious condition. At the same time, witnesses report that

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the Israeli occupying forces even prevented Palestine Red Crescent medics from reaching and treating the many who were injured during this outbreak of violence.

Such escalating tensions were also evident today in other areas throughout the Occupied West Bank, indicating the truly detrimental and inflammatory impact of recent provocative and illegal Israeli actions. This included attempts by the Israeli occupying forces to confront Palestinian demonstrators in Al-Khalil (Hebron), including outside Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi as well as attacks by the occupying forces on Palestinian civilians demonstrating in the village of Bil'in, west of Ramallah. In Bil'in, as the civilians marched peacefully from the centre of the village towards the Wall, the occupying troops fired tear gas, rubber bullets and sound bombs at the crowd, instigating clashes, and also fired tear gas directly at journalists and television crews at the scene, clearly aimed at obstructing reporting of the violence being perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces against the civilian demonstrators.

All of these incidents are indications of the increasing tumult and instability being caused by deliberate, relentless and illegal Israeli actions against Palestinian civilians, their lands, their properties and their heritage in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around East Jerusalem and other holy sites. Once again, we alert the international community to the dangers of the further escalation of the situation. This requires immediate attention because, clearly, if permitted to continue acting with such impunity, Israel's aggressive and illegal actions threaten to ignite yet another devastating cycle of violence and loss that will drag us farther and farther away from the peace and stability we seek.

At this particular moment in time, when concerted efforts are being exerted by the international community to salvage the prospects for peace, including by the United States of America in its efforts to restart peace negotiations, it is obvious that the continuation of such unlawful and provocative Israeli behaviour will render any and all efforts null. In this regard, it must be stated that all recent illegal and provocative Israeli measures further seriously call into question Israel's genuineness and credibility as a peace partner.

We thus reiterate our call on the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold their responsibilities under the Charter, international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions to compel Israel to cease all illegal policies and measures in order to stem the deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to promote a climate truly conducive to the pursuit of peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 358 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 3 March 2010 (A/ES-10/478-S/2010/119) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/480–S/2010/128

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11 March 2010

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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 10 March 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We write this letter today to condemn the latest deliberate and grave contravention of international law and United Nations resolutions by Israel, the occupying Power, as it continues to perpetrate illegal actions aimed at forcibly and aggressively imposing a fait accompli on the Palestinian people through its military might, altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around East Jerusalem. In this regard, Israel has continued to brazenly defy the calls by the international community and has chosen to carry on with its illegal and aggressive settlement campaign in blatant defiance of its legal obligations under international law and international humanitarian law, gravely jeopardizing any prospect for physically realizing the two-State solution for peace.

After a long stall in the resumption of peace talks and despite severe reservations due to Israel's continued illegal actions and policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, such as its construction of illegal settlements, the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) agreed to the United States of America's proposal to launch indirect talks with the two parties. Yet, within days of this announcement and in another illustration of Israel's insincere commitment to peace, the Israeli government announced the approval for construction of 1,600 new settlement units in the illegal settlement of "Ramat Shlomo" in Occupied East Jerusalem, constituting one of the largest construction projects of illegal settlements in Jerusalem in recent years. This announcement also came one day after the Israeli government approved 112 settlement units in the illegal settlement of "Betar Illit" near Bethlehem. Indeed, these most recent illegal and provocative actions will not only undermine the efforts made by the United States of America and the rest of the international community but will also derail negotiations before they even begin.

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The international community, including the Security Council, must urgently act to address these dangerous illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power, to obstruct and bury peace efforts before they even begin only to further entrench its illegitimate occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to de facto annex even more Palestinian land. Israel cannot be permitted to continue to flagrantly and grossly breach international law without consequence, and in persistent defiance of the international community. The international community must demand Israel's compliance with its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, by which it is bound as the occupying Power, and demand the cessation of all of its illegal policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 359 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 March 2010 (A/ES-10/479-S/2010/122) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/481–S/2010/142

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General Assembly
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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 16 March 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that tensions continue to escalate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of ongoing illegal actions, measures and provocations by Israel, the occupying Power. Recent aggressive actions and inflammatory declarations by Israel, particularly with regard to Occupied East Jerusalem, have caused widespread unrest and reveal an unmistakable, deliberate intent by the occupying Power to further destabilize the situation on the ground, to foment a cycle of violence to distract the international community from its illegal policies, particularly its colonization practices and its ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip, and to undermine the efforts being exerted to revive the peace process, particularly those being exerted by the United States of America.

Despite the vocal condemnations from around the international community, including by the Quartet, of the recent decision to construct another 1,600 settlement units in the illegal settlement of "Ramat Shlomo" in Occupied East Jerusalem, Israel remains flagrantly intransigent and has yet to respond to the appeals and demands to rescind the decision to pursue this unlawful colonization scheme. This decision is yet another appalling illustration of Israeli actions that are absolutely contradictory to — and actually appear intended to destroy — the objective of achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. Israel's continuing refusal to abandon such illegal, destructive and aggressive policies once again calls into serious question Israel's credibility as a peace partner and the genuineness of its commitment to the two-State solution.

Moreover, such behaviour sends yet another clear signal about Israel's total disregard for international law, its disdain for the international community, including the Quartet, and its unwillingness to make peace, to the detriment of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, the region and the international community.

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whose peace and stability is severely undermined by the continuation of this illegitimate occupation and this prolonged conflict. Reflective of this destructive and defiant attitude was yet another inflammatory remark by Prime Minister Netanyahu, who stated this week, "*The building in Jerusalem and in all other places will continue in the same way that has been accepted in the last 42 years*".

In addition, the occupying Power has imposed a closure over the entirety of the West Bank, completely restricting the movement of the Palestinian civilian population. This includes the closure of Occupied East Jerusalem and restrictions on access to the Old City and particularly to Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound even for the Palestinian residents of the City. In this regard, it has been reported that extra measures were being imposed by the occupying Power in East Jerusalem in the light of the plans to reopen this week a synagogue recently rebuilt in the Old City.

Moreover, in addition to the blanket closure of the West Bank, the occupying Power has declared the villages of Bil'in and Ni'lin as so-called "closed military zones" and has declared that they will remain closed zones for a period of six months. As we have repeatedly informed, Bil'in and Ni'lin have been the sites of weekly non-violent demonstrations against Israel's construction of the Wall and other illegal occupation policies, including the continuous confiscation of Palestinian land. This latest measure comes as part of series of measures taken by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilians in these villages, which have included mass arrests, including of peace activists, night raids and other restrictions of movement. Such actions are clearly aimed at preventing and crushing any attempts at peaceful, non-violent demonstration against the occupation.

All of these provocations and the continuation of Israel's illegal policies and practices, particularly its unlawful settlement activities, have sparked unrest that has impacted all areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Rising tensions and frustrations have led to increased protests by Palestinian civilians, which the Israeli occupying forces have confronted with typical excessive force, including use of tear gas, stun grenades and rubber bullets. This has included the use of force against Palestinian women and youths recently protesting against settlement plans in the West Bank, against demonstrators at numerous checkpoints, and the detention and arrest of dozens of Palestinian civilians.

In this regard, it is imperative to once again reiterate that Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including, but not limited to, its construction of settlements and the Wall and its transfer of Israeli settlers, constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law and serious violations of relevant United Nations resolutions. Such actions have also been deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice and are considered to be war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In addition to these legal provisions prohibiting such colonization, which Israel is obliged to respect as an occupying Power and as a State Member of the United Nations, it should be recalled that under the Quartet Road Map, Israel was directly called upon to freeze all settlement activities, including so-called "natural growth", an obligation and commitment that Israel continues to blatantly violate.

Recent developments have fully exposed the arbitrary, empty and ill-intentioned pretexts repeatedly used by Israel to justify the illegal actions taken as part of its colonization campaign, which is clearly aimed at the de facto annexation of even more Palestinian land and the entrenchment of its illegitimate occupation of

the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The international community must be consistent and firm in rejecting these pretexts, demanding a complete cessation of all illegal settlement activities, and calling for Israel's compliance with all of its legal obligations under international law without exception. Salvaging the prospects for peace and ultimately achieving a just, peaceful settlement are dependent on this. It is because Israel has been permitted to act with impunity for all of these years, behaving as though it were exempt from all rules and norms, that the conflict has been so protracted and exacerbated. Such appeasement and tolerance of breaches and violations of the law must end if we are to turn a new page and revive the peace process towards the speedy achievement of its stated goals. The international community, including the Security Council, has a clear responsibility in this regard, which must be upheld.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 360 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 10 March 2010 (A/ES-10/480-S/2010/128) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/ES-10/482 S/2010/148

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 19 March 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and President of the Security Council

I write to you today to once again convey our grave concerns regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. As we have alerted in recent letters, ongoing illegal policies and practices being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, have continued to inflict harm and suffering on the Palestinian civilian population, to fuel tensions and instability in the area, and to cause the deterioration of the situation on the ground. In addition to Israel's aggressive and unlawful settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, the continuation of Israel's inhumane, unlawful blockade against the Gaza Strip has imposed deplorable living conditions on the civilian population and has had a traumatic impact, especially affecting children and women.

As we approach the one thousandth day of the Israeli blockade against Gaza, the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian civilian population remains dire, with the blockade adversely impacting the viability of all aspects of life. Economic, health, education and other societal indicators reveal the magnitude of the humanitarian suffering deliberately inflicted by the occupying Power on the Palestinian civilian population in what definitely constitutes collective punishment on the scale of a war crime. Poverty remains rampant in Gaza, with more than 70 per cent of the population now living below the poverty line and dependent on food aid for basic survival. Restrictions on imports and exports continue to undermine livelihoods, ensuring that unemployment rates also remain high. Health standards continue to decline as the healthcare system falls into disrepair and decay and continues to face supply shortages, and illness and disease, particularly malnutrition and anaemia, have become widespread.

Despite repeated demands by the international community for Israel to lift the blockade and abide by its legal obligations under international humanitarian law, the occupying Power continues to close Gaza's border crossings, obstructing the

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movement of persons and goods. The crossings are arbitrarily opened only for the entry of minimal requirements of food and medical aid. Israel continues to obstruct the movement of Palestinian civilians, among them sick persons in need of medical treatment not available in Gaza, students and families. The access of aid workers and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental representatives to the Gaza Strip also continues to be restricted, and many continue to be subjected to harassment and intimidation by the occupying force at crossing points.

With its imposition of the blockade, Israel has also continued to obstruct the civilian population's access to necessary living supplies and materials, in flagrant breach of international humanitarian law. Basic commodities have become unattainable luxuries for thousands of Palestinian families. Restrictions on fuel imports continue to negatively affect the operation of the power plant in Gaza, resulting in ongoing electricity cuts, with power outages disrupting the functioning of schools, hospitals and home life.

Moreover, Israel has continued to prohibit the import of construction materials into Gaza, thus deliberately preventing the Palestinian civilian population from reconstructing the thousands of homes and other properties, including schools and health facilities, and infrastructure that it destroyed or caused damage to during its military aggression of last winter. The occupying Power has even prevented the United Nations from reconstructing destroyed and damaged facilities and continues to ignore the United Nations appeals to allow the reconstruction process to begin via the implementation of long overdue United Nations projects and initiatives. As a result, thousands of Palestinian families remain forcibly displaced and vital civilian infrastructure remains in total disrepair, with sanitation and sewage problems in particular increasing, further harming health and hygiene conditions, and severely undermining the ability of the population to recover from the physical and psychological impact of the military onslaught.

In particular, reports regarding the situation of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip starkly reveal the depth and extent of the severe trauma inflicted on these children as a result of the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip last winter, the continuing Israeli blockade, and the extremely negative repercussions of both of these dehumanizing, illegal acts of aggression and collective punishment by the occupying Power. Various studies and reports indicate that severe anxiety, panic, nightmares, depression and fear are prevalent among the children and youth in Gaza. These children, who constitute over half of the 1.5 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, continue to be traumatized and affected as a result of having witnessed and enduring, among other things, the following:

- The brutal killing and injury of family members and friends, including fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, relatives and classmates, by the Israeli occupying forces' missile strikes, shelling and gunfire. Many of the child survivors have themselves also suffered severe injuries and disabilities as a result of the military aggression that they continue to struggle with.
- The destruction of their homes as a result of explosions and fires caused by Israeli missile strikes and tank artillery bombardment and as a result of vandalism by the occupying forces, as well as the destruction of their schools, community facilities and neighbourhood infrastructure by airstrikes and shelling, including by white phosphorous projectiles.
- Homelessness and displacement: thousands upon thousands of children and their families were displaced from their homes as a result of the destruction caused during the aggression, with many still living in tents, often near the

rubble of their homes. The prohibition on reconstruction via the blockade has only prolonged their suffering in this regard.

- Rampant food insecurity as a result of the blockade, which has prevented families from being able to secure basic living needs for their children. This has resulted in alarming levels of acute malnutrition, anaemia and stunting among children.

- Lost education days due to the military aggression and fuel cuts that disrupt the functioning of schools and the lack of even basic educational supplies.

The above reflects only a brief picture of the deplorable humanitarian situation that continues to prevail in Gaza due to the illegal policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power. Israel's intransigence and defiance of the calls to comply with its obligations under international law, including the provisions of relevant United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, continues to exacerbate the situation. Indeed, in addition to the humanitarian crisis, the continuing siege and the inability of the international community to act to bring it to an end is clearly increasing tensions and frustrations among the population, which can only lead to more negative repercussions and outcomes.

We are thus obliged to reiterate our call upon the international community to exert all efforts, including practical measures, to compel Israel to immediately cease all of the violations it is perpetrating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including its measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, foremost among them this dehumanizing, unlawful blockade. The international community cannot stand idly by while an entire people living under foreign occupation is denied their inalienable human rights, including the right to live in dignity, and while their society is being deliberately devastated and debilitated.

International law, including humanitarian and human rights law, must be respected by all members of the international community without exception. Israel cannot continue to be permitted to act with impunity without repercussions. Upholding the rule of law and our collective moral conscience demands the immediate redress of this unjust situation. This must, of course, also include genuine efforts towards ensuring accountability for all of the war crimes committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 361 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 March 2010 (A/ES-10/481-S/2010/142), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/ES-10/483–S/2010/155

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Security Council

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25 March 2010

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 23 March 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to alert you about the escalating tensions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result Israel's illegal policies and practices of military aggression and colonization and its continuous provocations and incitement against the Palestinian people. Recent developments in this regard are clearly endangering the extremely fragile situation on the ground as well as the slim opportunity before us for the revival of the peace process, which the international community is concertedly trying to promote.

Over the weekend, the Israeli occupying forces killed four Palestinian civilians in the Occupied West Bank, all four of them in the Nablus area and within a span of 24 hours. On Saturday, 20 March, the occupying forces shot at civilians in the village of Iraq Buren who were participating in a demonstration against ongoing Israeli colonization measures, rampant Israeli settler violence and harassment, and imposed restrictions on access by Palestinian civilians to their farmlands in the area. Two Palestinian boys were shot by the occupying forces, receiving wounds to the head and chest. Both victims, ages 16 and 17, Mohammad Qadous and Osayed Qadous, died of their wounds. This was followed by the Israeli killing of another two Palestinian youths, Mohammad Faisal Qawariq and Salah Mohammad Qawariq, both age 19 and cousins, in the village of A'wrta on Sunday, 21 March.

These killings have not only deeply grieved and angered the victims' families and communities, but have affected the entire Palestinian population, which has been disturbed by the escalation of Israel's military raids and violence in Palestinian towns and villages, including against non-violent and peaceful demonstrators, and has been reminded anew of the brutality and absolute disregard for life by the occupying Power against the civilian population under its occupation. Moreover, as cautioned by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in recent days, such acts of aggression

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threaten to seriously destabilize the situation on the ground, undermining Palestinian efforts and achievements in promoting security and law and to fuel another deadly cycle of violence, which must be avoided at all cost. Indeed, such Israeli actions are totally contradictory to our efforts to calm the situation and salvage the prospects for peace.

In addition, I must draw your attention to the fact that the Israeli occupying forces launched missile strikes against the besieged and already devastated Gaza Strip late Monday, injuring four Palestinians, including one woman. The strike was launched against an area in Gaza City, causing damage as well to three homes in the vicinity of the targeted building.

At the same time, the Israeli Government continues its absolute defiance of the vocal international demands for a cessation of all Israeli settlement activities, including and particularly in Occupied East Jerusalem, and continues its provocations and incitement in this regard. Gravely breaching international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions, and in a flagrant and arrogant response to the clear and firm position underscored recently by the Quartet in Moscow, Israel continues its illegal attempts to alter the character, status and demographic composition of Occupied East Jerusalem. Settlement construction continues, the transfer of settlers continues, Wall construction continues, the confiscation of properties continues and the eviction of the indigenous Palestinian residents continues as Israel continues its illegal and aggressive attempts to Judaize East Jerusalem and thus prejudge the outcome of final status peace negotiations.

Moreover, despite the unanimous international rejection of Israel's de facto annexation of East Jerusalem, which is not recognized by the international community, and despite the strong calls for immediate and complete cessation of all colonization measures, Israel also continues to lay claim to East Jerusalem in direct contravention of United Nations resolutions, the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the international legal principle regarding the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. This is illustrated again and again by the remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in direct challenge to international law and the international community, including his latest such repugnant remark that "Our policy towards Jerusalem is the same policy of all Israeli Governments in the past 42 years and it has not changed. From our point of view, construction in Jerusalem is like construction in Tel Aviv".

Clearly, such remarks indicate that this Israeli Government has no intention of abandoning its illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and intends to continue the illegal policies and practices it has pursued in this regard for over 42 years of its illegitimate military occupation since 1967. The continuation of such unlawful policies and such inflammatory provocations are destroying the opportunity to launch a serious political process and negotiations towards the achievement of the two-State solution of an independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the 1967 borders.

Every stone placed in a settlement, every settler transferred and every provocative, reckless and reprehensible comment by Israel threatens the viability of the two-State solution and the potential for the revival of the peace process itself, which the international community as a whole, including the United States of America, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Nations, as

members of the Quartet, the Arab States and all other concerned nations, are collectively and determinedly trying to promote. Moreover, they threaten to intensify and widen the unrest, with vastly negative repercussions in the region and beyond. All of these Israeli measures, actions and provocations must thus be addressed in the most firm, consistent and serious manner. We are clearly at a critical juncture and the international community, including the Security Council, must rise to the challenge to uphold its responsibilities in this regard, including by taking practical measures to compel Israel to cease immediately its illegal military and settlement activities and collective punishment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and finally commit to the pursuit of a just and lasting peace settlement.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 362 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 19 March 2010 (A/ES-10/482-S/2010/148), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 25 March 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

This is the second letter we have sent to you in the past 24 hours to protest the incessant illegal, intransigent and provocative actions undertaken by the Government of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. As the international community continues with its tireless efforts to relaunch peace talks and provide hope to the region, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to take wilful and systematic steps to undermine these efforts, threatening to derail the peace talks and to completely strip the two-State solution of its meaning.

Just yesterday, media reports exposed that, on 18 March 2010, Israeli occupation authorities approved the construction of 20 new settlement units in Sheikh Jarrah, a Palestinian neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem. The approved illegal construction plans are clearly an affront to international law as well as to the collective will of the international community, which has repeatedly declared its rejection of such illegal measures. This project, which is strategically located in the heart of a Palestinian neighbourhood, went through a speedy approval process a day before the Quartet met in Moscow which, among other things, affirmed its clear position regarding illegal Israeli settlements.

It is glaringly clear that the current right-wing Israeli Government has no interest in defusing the rapid and dangerously rising tension in the region. On the contrary, the intransigent actions and arrogant remarks made by Israeli leaders provide unequivocal proof that this Government is in fact set on derailing peace efforts and defying the will of the international community.

In response to the defiant behaviour by Israel, the occupying Power, the international community has a clear obligation to translate its position on illegal settlement building into effective measures. Regrettably, for decades, the occupying Power has persisted in acting with complete impunity, without concern for reproach

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or punishment for its illegal practices and policies carried out throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Therefore, statements of concern are no longer sufficient. Rather, the international community, including the Security Council, must take concrete measures to halt, once and for all, Israel's ongoing colonization of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The time has come for the international community, represented by the United Nations, to finally ensure the preservation of its credibility and that of the international system that governs relations between nations. This has to begin with immediately ending Israel's vicious aggression against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population and its destructive path of impunity before the window of opportunity to achieve peace in the region is missed.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 363 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 23 March 2010 (A/ES-10/483-S/2010/155), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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30 March 2010

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 29 March 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We write to express our strong condemnation of the brutal Israeli repression against Palestinian and international supporters in the Occupied Palestinian Territory at a recent non-violent protest during the annual commemoration of Land Day. In this connection, yesterday, Sunday, 28 March, scores of peace activists were joined by Christian community leaders and political officials in a protest march against illegal Israeli restrictions imposed on Palestinian Christians that are once again obstructing their access to their holy places in Occupied East Jerusalem this Easter holiday.

The protest march was peaceful and, while it symbolically breached the Israeli checkpoint near Bilal ibn Rabah Mosque in Bethlehem, the non-violent civilian protestors did not pose any threat to the Israeli occupying forces at the roadblock. However, they were met with violent repression from Israeli occupying forces, including the use of tear gas and rubber bullets. In addition, many Palestinian civilians were brutally beaten, and 14 were arrested and illegally detained, including Abbas Zaki, a member of the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Israeli occupying forces transferred Mr. Zaki to the Ofer military camp, an Israeli military base inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory that serves as a prison and military court, where he remains detained, allegedly pending an investigation.

Mr. Zaki and the other non-violent protestors have been charged with incitement and accused of participating in a supposedly illegal riot and of illegal entry into Israel. Needless to say, these charges are absolutely invalid and rejected by the Palestinian side as being completely baseless and as being false accusations. Moreover, such charges are a clear indication of the intransigent pursuit of illegal policies by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at severing Occupied East Jerusalem from its natural Palestinian surroundings, in an attempt to further entrench its illegal annexation of the occupied city into an irreversible fact on the ground. Furthermore,

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Israel's policy of targeting peaceful protesters exposes a cynical, oppressive policy that denies Palestinians their basic human and political rights to freedom of expression and to peacefully protest against the occupation's illegal oppression and subjugation.

We consider the unlawful detention of Mr. Zaki to be a provocative political act. Such ongoing punitive Israeli measures are reflective of its reprehensible sense of impunity, which is undeniably linked to the lack of accountability the occupying Power has thus far enjoyed despite its systematic, deliberate and egregious violations of international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The international community must once and for all end this impunity by holding Israel accountable to the law and to the many relevant United Nations resolutions that it has so arrogantly and destructively continued to breach and ignore.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 364 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 March 2010 (A/ES-10/484-S/2010/158) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations